United Nations E/CN.3/2002/L.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
14 December 2001

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Thirty-third session
5-8 March 2002
Item 7 (i) of the provisional agenda*
Activities not classified by field: follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

Policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

Note by the Secretary-General

Elements of the policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council in 2001 that have relevance to the work of the Statistical Commission are set out below, along with an indication of the actions taken and proposed to be taken by the Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division. The Commission may wish to review the actions taken and planned and assess whether they are appropriate in relation to the policy decisions of the Council.

* E/CN.3/2002/1.

01-70286 (E) 230102

Elements of the policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

Policy decision	*Action requested by the Council*	*Action taken and proposed by the Statistical Commission and the United Nations Statistics Division*
Resolution 2001/21		
Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits	1. *Recalls* that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the relevant functional commissions or, as appropriate, other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, will continue to play, within their respective mandates, the primary role with regard to follow-up and in coordinating and implementing the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits;	The principal relevant responsibility of the Statistical Commission is in the coordination of development indicators in the context of the follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, which is covered under agenda item 7 (e), "Coordination of development indicators" (E/CN.3/2002/25 and 26).
	3. *Underlines* the specific responsibilities of the relevant functional commissions and, as appropriate, other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, in reviewing and assessing progress achieved, lessons learned and problems encountered in the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits;	
Resolution 2001/27		
Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B: improving the working methods of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council	3. *Invites* its functional commissions to provide concise, action-oriented input to its annual high-level and/or coordination segments, for example by utilizing, as applicable, their standing agenda item on new trends and emerging issues affecting the overall goals within their mandates; (the high level and/or coordination segments in 2002 relate to (a) human resources development and (b) the United Nations Millennium Declaration; see decision 2001/299 below);	In the work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division, there are training workshops to train statisticians in developing countries in a range of statistical fields. The work of the Commission in relation to the Millennium Declaration is covered under agenda item 7 (e) "Coordination of development indicators" (see E/CN.3/2002/25 and 26).
	5. *Encourages* its functional commissions to consider how best to	The Commission tries as far as possible to retain the same members

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	ensure continuity in the work of their successive bureaux, and to that end requests the Secretary-General to include a summary of the functional commissions' views, if any, in the next consolidated report;	of the Bureau for at least a two-year period to cover successive sessions of the Commission. Also, an effort is made to include in the Bureau representatives who have participated in previous sessions of the Commission.
	8. *Encourages* the functional commissions to continue to keep their working methods under review;	The Commission has regularly reviewed its functioning both through a formal item on its agenda and through discussion under other agenda items, when considered appropriate; see, for example, the discussion under the item "Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes" at the thirtieth session of the Commission (1999).[a]
	9. *Urges* its functional commissions to further develop opportunities for sharing national experience during annual sessions, in particular with regard to the implementation of conference outcomes, and to allocate an appropriate amount of time for that purpose at their annual sessions;	The Commission encourages members and observers to share national experience during sessions through issuance of country reports as background documents.
	10. *Encourages* its functional commissions to consider, as appropriate and within existing resources, holding joint bureaux meetings to discuss coordination on issues that are addressed by two or more commissions, using information technology, as required;	The Secretariat has reviewed the work programmes of the other functional commissions; while no subjects have been found that would call for joint bureaux meetings at this stage, the Secretariat will keep that possible approach in mind (for the current and planned work of the other functional commissions, see E/2001/95).
	11. *Also encourages* its functional commissions, within existing resources, to share more systematically the outcome of their work, including through communications among chairpersons or through briefings by the Secretariat;	Currently, the United Nations Statistics Division reviews the proceedings of each session of the Statistical Commission and transmits relevant documents and relevant extracts from the report of the Commission on each session to the Secretariat offices that serve each of the other functional commissions, for

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		presentation to those functional commissions, as appropriate.
	12. *Further encourages* its functional commissions to identify similar or related topics and, in this context, requests the Secretary-General, inter alia, to present a joint report on such topics, where appropriate;	In preparing reports for the Statistical Commission, the United Nations Statistics Division ensures that any necessary input is obtained from the Secretariat units that support the other functional commissions, as was recently the case in respect of the Commissions on Sustainable Development and for Social Development.
	16. *Also invites* its functional commissions to strengthen their attention to the role of information and communication technologies for development in their areas of responsibility;	The United Nations Statistic Division is carrying out two projects under the United Nations Development Account, one in the region of the Caribbean Community (1999-2001) and one in the region of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (2000-2002), which include the upgrading of information technology and hardware to create a platform for communication for data exchange. A third project is scheduled for the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2002-2004). The Division also has an interregional adviser on computers and informatics, who provides short-term advisory services to developing countries and countries in transition in the field of computers and informatics and their statistical application. The multi-year programme of work of the Commission includes the item "Definition and measurement of the so-called information society" in 2005 (see E/CN.3/2002/L.4).
	17. *Welcomes* its functional commissions' efforts to mainstream a gender perspective in their work;	Gender mainstreaming is reflected in the range of development indicators considered by the Commission in the context of follow-up to the United Nations conferences and summits,

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		which is covered under agenda item 7 (e) "Coordination of development indicators" (see E/CN.3/2002/25 and 26). Gender mainstreaming is being promoted in the United Nations Statistics Division through a series of working groups.
	18. *Encourages* its functional commissions to continue to coordinate their work, in particular in areas of common interest, by, for example, biennializing items or making use of joint reports;	The Commission, in its multi-year programme of work, has biennialized several subjects, particularly the work of city groups and task forces functioning in various statistical areas, work on demographic and social statistics, management issues in national statistical offices and statistical capacity-building.
	19. *Agrees* to take steps to integrate the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS into its own work,[b] based on the decision of the Assembly at that special session, and requests the functional commissions to do the same for effective implementation and follow-up.	The Commission included HIV/AIDS on the agenda of its thirty-first session in 2000,[c] and at its thirty-third session has an agenda item 3 (c) entitled "Health statistics" (see E/CN.3/2002/4). HIV/AIDS is also covered under agenda item 7 (e), "Coordination of development indicators"; several indicators (eight) on HIV/AIDS are included.
	20. *Welcomes* the attention given by several of its functional commissions to cross-cutting dimensions in relation to all aspects of human settlements, and invites relevant commissions to seek greater interaction on these issues;	Human settlements statistics were considered by the Commission at its thirty-second session, in 2001,[d] on the basis of a report prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, and the results brought to the attention of the Commission on Human Settlements. The subject is included in the multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission in 2004 (see E/CN.3/2002/L.4).
	21. *Invites* its functional commissions to provide further inputs into the Council's own work on means of implementations, including the role of resource mobilization, capacity-building, research and data collection,	Statistical capacity-building is covered under agenda item 6 (see E/CN.3/2002/18 and 19). Statistical capacity-building is also an integral part of the work on harmonization of development indicators (see agenda

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	and information- and knowledge-sharing in their respective areas, with a particular focus on impact, gaps, good practices and lessons learned, and the types of capacity-building most commonly sought in the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit.	item 7 (e) and documents E/CN.3/2002/25 and 26).
	22. *Also invites* its functional commissions to continue to explore opportunities for effective and productive contribution to their work by relevant stakeholders;	The Commission involves relevant NGOs and non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations in its work on an ongoing basis.
Resolution 2001/41		
Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system	3. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General and all bodies reporting to the Economic and Social Council to address the gender aspects of issues before the Council in their reports;	Gender mainstreaming is reflected in the range of development indicators considered by the Commission in the context of follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, which is covered under agenda item 7 (e), "Coordination of development indicators" (see E/CN.3/2002/25 and 26). Gender mainstreaming is being promoted in the United Nations Statistics Division through a series of working groups.
Decision 2001/299		
Themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the substantive session of 2002 of the Economic and Social Council	At its 43rd plenary meeting, on 26 July 2001, the Economic and Social Council decided to adopt the following themes for the high-level and coordination segments of its substantive session of 2002:	
	High-level segment	
	The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development	In the work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division, there are training workshops to train statisticians in developing countries in a range of statistical fields.

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	Coordination segment	
	Strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter of the United Nations as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration	The work of the Commission in relation to the Millennium Declaration is covered in the thirty-third session of the Commission under agenda item 7 (e) "Coordination of development indicators" (see E/CN.3/2002/25 and 26).
Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Council, entitled "The role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development"		The work of the Commission on the harmonization of development indicators and the Millennium Declaration, particularly statistical capacity-building, covered under agenda item 7 (e) "Coordination of development indicators", is relevant (see E/CN.3/2002/25 and 26).
Agreed conclusions 2001/1 of the Council, concerning the role of the United Nations in promoting development particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communications technologies, inter alia, through partnership with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.		(See above action under Council resolution 2001/27, para. 16.)

[a] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 4* (E/1999/24), chap. IX.
[b] See General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.
[c] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 4* (E/2000/24), paras. 25 and 26.
[d] Ibid., *2001, Supplement No. 4* (E/2001/24), para. 5.